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SUBJECT Harpke Power Plant

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1. The Harpke power plant, located on the English-Russian zonal border in the Helmstedt area, is split by the border. The plant proper is on the British side of the line, while the coal deposits are in Russian territory. In the past, power and coal have been reciprocally exchanged, enabling the plant to function as a unit.
2. Recently, Heinrich Rau, chief of the DDR State Planning Commission, decided to build a new power plant wholly within the Soviet border in order to utilize the coal deposits. The Planning Commission has allocated 20 million Dr. East for the construction project in the Marienborn area.
3. This decision is part of the general tightening of the DDR economy, in the government's effort to make the DDR independent of Western imports and supplies.

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